

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A spinal orthopedic device and tool set, comprising:

an intervertebral spacer device having a first baseplate and a second baseplate mounted to one another, each of said first and second baseplates having an inwardly facing surface and an outwardly facing surface, the inwardly facing surface of the first baseplate and the inwardly facing surface of the second baseplate including a perimetrical region facing each other, wherein at least one of said first and second baseplates include a plurality of engagement holes disposed within said perimetrical region, said engagement holes having a first end and a second end, said first end facing toward said perimetrical region of one of said first and second baseplates and said second end disposed within the other of said perimetrical region of the other one of said first and second baseplates; and

a manipulation tool having a proximal end, a distal end, and a shaft located along a longitudinal axis of said manipulation tool between said proximal and distal ends, said longitudinal axis of said shaft perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said engagement holes, said shaft including a central channel coaxial with said longitudinal axis, said central channel housing a post, said post having a bent distal end perpendicular to the central channel of the shaft, said post having a first position corresponding to said post being disposed entirely within said distal end of said manipulation tool, and a second position corresponding to said post extending outwardly from said distal end of said manipulation tool, wherein when said post is in said second position said bent distal end of said post may be disposed within any of the plurality of said engagement holes of said intervertebral device such that at least one of said first and second baseplates may

be secured to said manipulation tool at a desired surgical approach aspect.

2-4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 1, wherein one of the desired surgical approach aspects is an anterior aspect of the at least one of the baseplates.

6. (previously presented) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 1, wherein at least one of the desired surgical approach aspects is an antero-lateral aspect of the at least one of the baseplates.

7-10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 6, wherein the other desired surgical approach aspects are a left antero-lateral aspect and a right antero-lateral aspect of the at least one of the baseplates.

12. (original) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 1, wherein the at least one engagement hole has a longitudinal axis parallel to both an anterior-posterior plane and a medial-lateral plane of the intervertebral spacer device.

13. (previously presented) A spinal orthopedic device and tool set comprising:

an intervertebral spacer device having a first baseplate and a second baseplate mounted to one another, each of said first and second baseplates having an inwardly facing

surface and an outwardly facing surface, the inwardly facing surface of the first baseplate and the inwardly facing surface of the second baseplate including a perimetrical region facing each other, said perimetrical region of said first baseplate having a plurality of engagement holes disposed therein; and

a manipulation tool having a proximal end, a distal end, and a shaft, said shaft including a central channel housing a spring and a post, said post having a bent distal end perpendicular to the central channel of the shaft and a first position corresponding to said post being disposed entirely within said distal end of said manipulation tool, and a second position corresponding to said post extending outwardly from said distal end of said manipulation tool, wherein said spring in contact with said post biases said post into said first position, and wherein when said post is in said second position said bent distal end of said post may be disposed within any of the plurality of said engagement holes of said intervertebral device such that at least one of said first and second baseplates may be secured to said manipulation tool at a desired surgical approach aspect.

14. (cancelled).

15. (previously presented) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 13, wherein said manipulation tool further comprises a flange mechanically connected to said post wherein horizontal translation of the flange in the distal direction correspondingly translates said post from said first to said second position.

16. (currently amended) A spinal orthopedic device and tool set, comprising:

an intervertebral spacer device having a first baseplate and a second baseplate mounted to one another, each of said first and second baseplates having an inwardly facing surface and an outwardly facing surface, the inwardly facing surface of the first baseplate and the inwardly facing surface of the second baseplate including a perimetrical region facing each other, wherein at least one of said first and second baseplates include three engagement holes disposed within said perimetrical region, said three engagement holes each having a first end and a second end, said first end facing toward said perimetrical region of one of said first and second baseplates and said second end disposed within the other of said perimetrical region of the other one of said first and second baseplates; and

a manipulation tool having a proximal end, a distal end, and a shaft located along a longitudinal axis of said manipulation tool between said proximal and distal ends, said longitudinal axis of said shaft perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said engagement holes, said shaft including a central channel coaxial with said longitudinal axis, said central channel housing a post, said post having a bent distal end perpendicular to the central channel of the shaft, said post having a first position corresponding to said post being disposed entirely within said distal end of said manipulation tool, and a second position corresponding to said post extending outwardly from said distal end of said manipulation tool, wherein when said post is in said second position said bent distal end of said post may be disposed within any of the engagement holes of said intervertebral device such that at least one of said first and second baseplates may be secured to said manipulation tool, wherein each of the three engagement holes is at a respective desired surgical approach aspect of the

Application No.: 10/663,488

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-437
CPCPCPCPCPCPCP I CON III

at least one of the baseplates, wherein one of the desired surgical approach aspects is an anterior aspect.